

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims as follows:

B1
4. (Amended) A processor according to claim 2 [or 3], wherein the compressor comprises MOS transistors operating in weak inversion.

6. (Amended) A process according to [any of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, further comprising an amplifier for amplifying the filtered output signal of the tone control circuit.

7. (Amended) A processor according to [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, wherein the input signal is a current signal.

B2
8. (Amended) A processor according to [any of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, further comprising a biphasic signal generator for supplying to the output a biphasic signal modulated by the processed audio output signal.

9. (Amended) A processor according to [any of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, further comprising full-wave rectification means for full-wave rectifying the processed audio output signal.

12. (Amended) A processor according to claim 10 [or 11], wherein the half-wave rectification means comprises means for applying a dc offset to the filtered signals.

B3
13. (Amended) A processor according to [any of claims 1 to 12] claim 1, comprising only one output.

14. (Amended) A processor according to [any of claims 1 to 12] claim 1, comprising a plurality of outputs for providing processed audio signals, and wherein the tone control circuit is common to all the outputs for simultaneously adjusting the intensity/frequency of the processed audio signals at the outputs.

B4 18. (Amended) A processor according to [any of claims 15 to 17] claim 15, further comprising a plurality of biphase signal generators for supplying biphase signals modulated by respective ones of the frequency-separated signals to respective ones of the outputs.

B5 21. (Amended) A processor according to [any of claims 1 to 20] claim 1, where configured such that the intensity/frequency is controllable by a user.

24. (Amended) A processor according to [any of claims 21 to 23] claim 21, comprising a user control for controlling signal amplitude.

25. (Amended) A processor according to [any of claims 1 to 24] claim 1, wherein the or each subtractor has a control input for controlling signal amplitude.

B6 26. (Amended) A processor according to [any of claims 1 to 25] claim 1, when implemented as a single chip analogue MOS integrated circuit.

27. (Amended) An aural prosthetic device comprising the processor according to [any of claims 1 to 26] claim 1.

28. (Amended) A hearing aid comprising the processor according to [any of claims 1 to 26] claim 1.

29. (Amended) A cochlear implant prosthesis comprising the processor according to [any of claims 1 to 26] claim 1.

B7 32. (Amended) A processor according to claim 30 [or 31], wherein the adjustment means includes a control interface for allowing adjustment of the gain of each channel in response to control signals transmitted by a wireless remote control.

B7 33. (Amended) A processor according to [any of claims 30 to 32] claim 30, further comprising a tone generator for generating tones of preset amplitude and frequency dependent on the fundamental frequencies of the filters of the channels.

36. (Amended) A processor according to [any of claims 30 to 35] claim 30, where configured such that each channel is adjustable independently of all the other channels.

B7 37. (Amended) A processor according to [any of claims 30 to 36] claim 30, further comprising sampling means coupling the channels to the outputs.

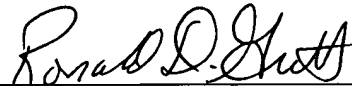
B7 39. (Amended) A processor according to [any of claims 30 to 38] claim 30, further comprising a plurality of biphase signal generators for supplying to the outputs biphase signals modulated by the output signals of the channels.

REMARKS

If there are any fees due for the submission of this Second Preliminary Amendment, please charge our deposit account 03-0172.

Respectfully submitted,

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